

LATEST NEWS OF THE WORLD BY TELEGRAPH AND CABLE. { CONTINUED ON PAGES 6 AND 11

## GOVERNOR TYLER'S MESSAGE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Intelligent Discussion of Questions Involving the Interests of the People.

The Existing Law Regulating the State's Oyster Interests Commended—Admonition not to Permanently Increase Expenditures Before Next Assessment of Lands and Source of Increased Revenue Suggested—Amendments to Delinquent Tax Law Recommended—The Trusts Condemned—Senatorial Primaries Advocated—The Buying of Votes—Payment of Grimes' Battery Claim Urged—Amendments to State Constitution and How Best to Secure Them.

Governor Tyler yesterday transmitted his annual message to the General Assembly. It was read in both houses and commanded close attention. It follows:

The Governor begins his message by expressing the pleasure it gave him to welcome the members of the General Assembly to Richmond. He calls attention to the fact that this is the last Legislature elected in the State of Virginia during the nineteenth century, and it is in your hands to close for this great century, so full of giant progress and mighty meaning, the legislative history of the Commonwealth. And while it is thus in your power to impose fitting finish and adornment to the structure of civil government, so wisely planned by our fathers, it is also in your power to provide for laying anew the constitutional foundations of your State government, on which those who are to come after us may build and find room for their best labors and most extended growth.

He follows with a review of the past history of the State, the Spanish-American war, the promptness with which Virginians responded to the call to arms, refers to the valuable services of Adjutant General Nalle, Inspector General Stern and local members of his staff, and suggests that the Legislature make a small appropriation to furnish each officer who served in the Spanish-American war with a suitable commission of service that they may preserve as mementoes in their families, and a suitable badge might be provided for the non-commissioned officers and men.

### ADJUTANT GENERAL'S REPORT.

The report of the Adjutant General is referred to as full and elaborate and attention called to its recommendations. He emphasizes the necessity for a well-regulated militia, and suggests that it would be a wise expenditure on the part of our State government to provide means for the drilling and discipline of bodies of State troops, about which, as a nucleus, sufficient numbers of men may form whenever the need and cause may arise. Very meagre, if any records of enlistment of soldiers of other wars has been kept, and the Adjutant General, at his request, has given a list of all soldiers enlisted in the Spanish-American war, from the State, and his reports and records will prove more and more valuable as time goes on. In order to have the organizations of our State volunteers conform as nearly as possible to organizations of like arm of the service of the United States, he designated a board of officers, who are experienced and deemed capable, to report a plan, which it is hoped will promote the interest of the service.

### THE FISH COMMISSION.

The last Legislature made provision for a State Board of Fisheries, and passed a new law regulating its action. Recognizing the necessity of securing proper men to serve on this important board, I took considerable time after the adjournment of the Legislature to select the men that I thought best qualified for the work in hand. I appointed as members of this board, Dr. Frank Fletcher, of Accomac; Mr. Seth P. Miller, of Mathews; Hon. R. A. Ayres, of Scott; Hon. George B. Keel, of Rockingham, and Captain John A. Curtis, of the city of Richmond. The first two were designated, as required by law, chairman and secretary, respectively, of the board. After a month's service, General Ayres found he could not give the time necessary to the discharge of the duties of the position and resigned. I appointed in his place Hon. Pembroke Pettit, of Fluvanna. Whether my selections were wise, and whether the Board has done its work well, I leave the results to show. I refer with pleasure to the report of this Board, and to the fact that instead of being a burden to the State, the oyster fields yielded the first year under this new system the handsome sum of \$54,000, more than \$34,000 of which was clear profit, and for the first eighteen months, ending the 31st of September, 1899, as will be seen by reference to the report of the Board of Fisheries to your honorable body, that the total amount collected for the first eighteen months of the law's operation was.....\$ 73,003 40  
Total expenses.....\$ 30,397 34  
Net revenue to the State.....\$ 42,606 06  
Total revenue for the previous year.....29,985 20  
Total expenses.....31,693 43  
Deficit.....1,808 23  
Difference, adding deficit.....43,317 29  
Total income for four years, 1894-95-96-97.....131,630 38  
Total expenses for the same time.....116,885 10  
Net.....14,745 28

Average per annum.....3,686 33  
Average annual expense under the old law.....29,221 20  
Average annual expense under the new law.....20,264 88  
There should be encouragement in such a showing.  
Governor Wise, when he sent to the Legislature his famous message in 1857, in which this subject among others was treated, indelibly impressed upon the minds of the people of Virginia the value of their property in public soil suitable for the cultivation of oysters. The State was looking about for new sources of revenue, and he estimated that we had 2,000 square miles of oyster grounds, and that the yield from them was 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 bushels per annum, and that a tax of two cents per bushel would yield a yearly net revenue of \$450,000. But for the approach of the war between the States, it is probable there would have been some decided legislation upon the subject. As it is, forty odd years have passed, and as the culmination of several experiments, we have just seen the beginning of a system which holds out the promise of certain and considerable revenue. The State may hope now for a steady increase in her revenue from oyster grounds, but long years must pass and the planting industry must improve vastly, if ever we can indulge the hope of seeing the sum reached anything like the amount predicted by Governor Wise.

The result of the Baylor survey was to show that we have about 200,000 acres of natural oyster beds, and about 400,000 acres of other ground suitable for the cultivation of oysters. Much of the latter, however, has muddy bottom which must be improved at more or less cost before it can become profitable planting ground. But even if one-fourth of this territory can be utilized and rented, the State will receive from planting ground alone the sum of \$100,000, and with proper protection to the natural beds, and a just revenue from the same, this sum can be greatly augmented.

The great aim of the State should be to preserve the natural beds, whence comes our supply of seed oysters, and to encourage planting.  
I refer you to the report of the State Board of Fisheries for much valuable information relating to the progress of their work. So far as I am in a position to judge, public sentiment is steadily crystallizing in support of the existing law, and I believe it will, ere long, be found to be a satisfactory revenue producer. As the planting industry prospers, more of our lands will be taken by planters. On the other hand, this law gives to the people interested in oyster culture a security and tenure they have always longed for and have not had hitherto. A survey as suggested by the board should be made by all means. I am of the opinion that any disturbance of the basis upon which the present law rests would be harmful in the highest degree to the State, as well as to those who are directly interested in the cultivation and marketing of oysters. Peace and security are what the oyster interest needs, and with them will come, I am sure, a gradual but certain increase in the State's revenue. If Virginia can be fortunate enough to always keep the positions on such boards from being the rewards of partisan political labors, we will have the pleasure in the future, as at present, in receiving such gratifying returns.

### FINANCES.

I beg to call attention to the very flattering financial condition of the State, as shown in the report of the Auditor of Public Accounts. The State will have to make provision after the 1st of January, 1902, to meet the 1 per cent. additional interest charges on its bonded debt. This will impose an increase burden upon the State of \$180,000 per annum. Though the report shows a handsome surplus in the treasury, it would be a risk, and perhaps irreparable mistake for the Legislature to conclude that there is less need for the exercise of economy than there has been in the past years. There have been unusual causes for increase in the revenue for the last two years, especially has the collection of arrearages on the delinquent land tax been a potent factor in producing this result. We must bear in mind that the State has collected in the two years much that should have been coming in for the last eight or ten years, and we should not be allured into extravagance, or make calculations which will not be justified by normal conditions. By all means we should await the next assessment of lands before we fix upon the treasury any permanent increase in expenditures farther than is absolutely necessary.

If the assessed value of property re-

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETS

Several Bills Introduced by One of Norfolk's Representatives.

### THE LANDGRABBERS LAW.

Senator from Roanoke Would Amend Section of Code Relating to Trial by Jury—Revision of Constitution Proposed—Bill to Suspend Land-Grabbers Law for Sixty Days—State Board of Health.

(Special to Virginian-Pilot.)  
Richmond, Va., Dec. 6.—In the presence of a very large gathering of interested spectators the Legislature of Virginia, at noon to-day, began the session of 1899-1900—a session, many think, which will be marked by important and far-reaching legislation.  
When the Senate convened every member was in his seat, except Senator McIlwaine, of Petersburg, who is detained at home by sickness. The officers nominated by the caucus last



ADELBERT S. HAY, CONSUL AT PRETORIA.

Consul Hay, who will succeed Consul Macrum at Pretoria, is a son of Secretary of State John Hay. He is a graduate of Harvard and, although a very young man, is said to be able, courageous and discreet. Consul Macrum retires because the Transvaal did not take kindly to his acting as the representative of Great Britain and the United States. Consul Hay will also have charge of American and British interests at Pretoria. This picture is taken from the New York Herald.

night, as published in this morning's Virginian-Pilot, were unanimously elected.

### BILLS OFFERED.

In both House and Senate a number of bills were offered, some of general importance and others of only local interest.

### TRIAL BY JURY.

One of the most general interest was introduced by Senator Claytor, of Roanoke, which is designed to amend that section of the Code relating to trial by jury. It provides that in civil cases the parties to a writ may agree for a jury of seven persons to try a cause. It further provides that in all civil cases three-fourths of the persons constituting a jury; or, if the jury be composed of seven, five of them, may render a verdict, which shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous verdict.

### REVISION OF CONSTITUTION.

Senator Flood offered a bill providing that on the fourth Thursday in May, 1901, there shall be a convention to revise the constitution of the State, and amend the same.

### MONEY IN ELECTIONS.

As forecasted in the Virginian-Pilot Senator Barksdale, of Halifax, offered a bill to prevent the use of money in Virginia elections and to punish the infraction of the statute.

### LAND GRABBERS LAW.

Senator Carter Glass, of Lynchburg, offered a bill to suspend the operation of the act popularly known as the "Land-Grabbers" law for sixty days, in order that this very obnoxious measure may be perfected.

A bill was offered by Senator Clay-

## BOERS SHATTER BRITISH GUNS

Ladysmith Hotly Bombarded Last Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

### CLOSING IN ON TOWN

Terrible Artillery Duel Follows a Sortie from Kimberly—A Big Gun Mounted by the Boers Before Ladysmith Plants Shells With Accuracy in British Camp—Activity in Cape Colony—General Joubert Indisposed.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)  
London, Dec. 7.—4:30 a. m.—Again there is a complete lull in news from the seat of war. Ladysmith has established heliographic communication with Frere, and it is reported that all was well up to Sunday. A dispatch from the Boer laager, by way of Lourenzo Marques, dated Thursday, November 30, confirms the report that the commandoes have been closing in upon Ladysmith and mounting big guns in

ward Spytfontein, holding the Boers in check in that direction.

### TERRIBLE FUSILADE.

Ten guns were engaged simultaneously, and, viewed from the conning tower, an artillery duel seemed proceeding in every direction, except toward Kenilworth, the fusillade being terrible. At 8 o'clock, having no force sufficient to hold the position he had stormed, Colonel Scott-Turner began gradually retiring his men. He had a horse shot under him, and a bullet went through the fleshy part of his shoulder. Several men had terrible wounds.

It is alleged that the Boers used Martini's and explosive bullets, and they frequently fired at the British ambulance wagons. The British captured twenty-eight of the enemy.

### HOT BOMBARDMENT.

Ladysmith, Saturday, Dec. 2.—The hottest bombardment of the siege took place last Thursday. The Boers got a new big gun in position on Lombard's Kop, completely commanding the town and shelled our camp that day and yesterday, planting shells with great accuracy in the camp of the Gordon Highlanders and the Manchester regiment, where there were many narrow escapes. To-day the enemy resumed the bombardment, doing some very effective shooting. Several of our guns have been shattered by the Boer big gun.

### COMMUNICATION SEVERED.

Queenstown, Cape Colony, Saturday, Dec. 2.—The Boers have become very active in the country around Stormberg Junction, to which General Gatacre will make his next move.  
The telegraph lines have been cut in various places, and communication with Steynburg, Dordrecht and Maraisburg has been severed. It is believed here that the Boers have occupied Stormburg. Firing has been heard in the direction of Stormburg, probably between General Gatacre's vanguard and the Boer commando.

### GENERAL JOUBERT INDISPOSED.

Pretoria, Saturday, Dec. 2.—(Via Lourenzo Marques, Monday, Dec. 4).—General Joubert is indisposed, and has arrived at Volksrust, just across the Transvaal border for medical treatment.

A dispatch from the head laager, where General Schalkburger is in supreme command during the absence of General Joubert, announced that a Council of War was held December 2, with reference to assaulting Ladysmith. The State Attorney has arrived at the camp to advise the Boer commandoes.

### IN THE PHILIPPINES.

WHERE IS YOUNG?—PARKER'S ENGAGEMENT—CRUISER CHARLESTON.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)  
Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.—General Otis to-day cabled the War Department that he has had no word of General Young for a week. This is taken to indicate that Young is continuing his hot pursuit of Aguinaldo and probably is in a country where he regards it as unsafe to use couriers.  
PARKER'S ENGAGEMENT.  
General Otis' dispatch, which follows, also gives an official account of Lieutenant Colonel Parker's engagement at Vigan:

"Manila, December 6.  
"General Young, with thirteen companies infantry and nine troops of cavalry not heard from since 25th ultimo. He was then about twenty miles south of Vigan and most of troops marching to his support, but then had with him three troops of cavalry, battalion Thirty-third Infantry and Macnebe scouts. One company Thirty-third Infantry, sent by boat to Vigan to reinforce navy there. Lieutenant Colonel Parker, Forty-fifth, reports from Vigan, 5th instant, that he has not heard from Young for a week. Insurgents, 800 strong, made attack on his force, consisting B Company and one hundred and fifty-three sick and footsore men Thirty-third Infantry, 4 o'clock morning 5th, entering city in darkness, severe street fighting ensued, continued four hours; enemy driven out, leaving behind forty dead, 32 prisoners, including many officers, and 84 rifles; now on outskirts entrenching. Parker says can hold out indefinitely, plenty of rations and ammunition. His loss eight enlisted men killed, three wounded. One hundred sixty men now being transported from San Fabian to his relief. Young must be in vicinity with large force."

### LOSS OF THE CHARLESTON.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.—Admiral Watson to-day cabled the Navy Department that the court of inquiry to investigate the loss of the cruiser Charleston convened yesterday at Cavite. He added that all the Charleston's people were present.  
The court of inquiry was ordered by the department because the regulations require that the responsibility for the loss of ships shall be fixed by some competent tribunal. That Admiral Watson entertained no doubt as to the correctness of Captain Pigman's course is evidenced by the recent order assigning that officer to command the Monterey.

### "ARBITRAGE SYSTEM."

FRANKLIN SYNDICATE SWINDLE DUPLICATED.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)  
Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 6.—Ward & Watson, who have been operating what is known as the "Arbitrage system" here, similar to that of the Franklin syndicate in New York, have disappeared, leaving their clients and numerous creditors in the lurch. To-day their desks were broken open, and it was found that they had destroyed all their contracts, letters and other evidence and left behind only a stack of bills payable. The firm guaranteed to pay 50 per cent. annually on investments. The contracts, however, include a clause admitting the investor to partnership, which, it is claimed, vitiates the guarantee.  
The amount of losses by investors is not known, as all evidence was destroyed. The authorities are taking steps to apprehend the men.

## THE ELECTION OF SENATORS

A Georgia Senator Would Have the People Choose Them.

### HOUSE FINANCE BILL

Nearly Eight Hundred Bills and Joint Resolutions Introduced in One Day in the Senate—Polygamy in Utah—Many Presidential Appointments Sent in for Ratification—Republican Representatives Approve House Finance Bill.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)  
Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.—Nearly 800 bills and joint resolutions, several important concurrent resolutions and petitions numbering hundreds, were presented to the Senate to-day.

Mr. Aldrich had the honor of introducing the first measure in the Senate. It was the financial bill drawn by the Senate Committee on Finance, of which Mr. Aldrich is chairman, and probably was the most important measure introduced to-day.

Resolutions were offered by Mr. Rawlins providing for an investigation by the Judiciary Committee after all phases of polygamy recently presented in connection with what is known as the Roberts case by Mr. Mason, expressing the sympathy of the Senate for the Boers in their war with Great Britain, and by Mr. Jones, of Arkansas, that Mr. Scott, of West Virginia, is not entitled to a seat in the Senate.

Mr. Harris (Tex.), of Kansas, was appointed a temporary member of the Committee on Privileges and Elections. The appointment is important and significant because the committee has under consideration the Quay, Clark and Scott contests.

A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of Michigan was presented by Mr. McMillan, of Michigan. The resolution protested against the policy of the Russian Government toward Finland, and was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Lodge (Massachusetts) offered and secured the adoption of a resolution requesting the President, if not incompatible with public interests, to inform the Senate as to the proposed sale of the Gallapagos Island by Ecuador to Great Britain, and to communicate any such information concerning the proposed sale as might be in possession of the Government.

### POLYGAMY IN UTAH.

Mr. Rawlins (Utah) offered the following resolution and asked that it be considered immediately:

"That the Committee on Judiciary is hereby instructed to inquire into and report to the Senate:  
"First, to what extent polygamy is practiced or polygamous marriages entered into in the United States, or in places over which they have jurisdiction.

"Second, have polygamists, or persons reputed to have more than one wife, been elected to office by the people of Utah, and if so, has such election been for the purpose of encouraging polygamy or in violation of any compact between said State and the United States.

"Third, have polygamists, or persons reputed to have more than one wife, been appointed to office by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, or in cases where the concurrence of the Senate is not required, and if so have such appointments been made in the aid in polygamy or in violation of the compact between the United States and the State of Utah with reference to that subject.

"Fourth, what, if any, steps should be taken or measures enacted for the prevention of polygamy in the United States and in places over which they have jurisdiction."

Mr. Walcott, Colorado, objected to immediate consideration and the resolution was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The Senate at 2:20 p. m. went into executive session and at 2:50 p. m. adjourned.

### EXTENSION OF LAWS.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.—Senator Chandler to-day introduced bills applying the customs and internal revenue laws of the United States to the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico after January 1, 1900. Goods between the islands and the United States are to be exchanged as between the States.

### ELECTION OF SENATORS.

A resolution was introduced by Mr. Clay, of Georgia, providing for the election of Senators by the people.

Bills were introduced by Mr. Pettus,

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### OTHER TELEGRAPH PAGE 6

### CLASSIFICATION OF NEWS.

#### BY DEPARTMENTS.

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